

REMARKS

This Amendment responds to the Office Action mailed October 28, 2008. Claims 1, 3, and 26-43 remain pending in the application prior to this amendment, and claims 1, 3, 26-34, 36, and 38-43 stand rejected. Claims 35 and 37 were objected to for depending from rejected base claims, but were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 35 and 37 are rewritten in independent form by this amendment, and claims 3, 27-34, 36, and 38-43 have been amended to depend from allowable claim 37. Accordingly, Applicants assert that claims 3 and 27-43 are in condition for allowance and respectfully request early and favorable indication thereof.

Claims 1 and 26 were canceled, without prejudice and reserving the right to pursue the subject matter of these claims in a continuation application. New claims 44 and 45 have been added and are discussed below.

Objections to the Drawings

The drawings were objected to with respect to the recitation of reference numerals 24a and 25a in the Specification. The Specification has been amended to remove these reference numerals. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the objections to the drawings be withdrawn.

Claims Rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claim 27 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, for informalities related to the recitation of various ranges. Claim 27 has been amended to

recite a single range. New claims 44 and 45 have been added to recite the ranges cancelled from claim 27. Accordingly, no new matter is added by claims 44 and 45.

Claims 44 and 45 each depend from allowable claim 37, and are in condition for allowance for at least the same reasons as claim 37. Early and favorable indication of allowance is therefore respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments to the claims and the remarks set forth herein, Applicants believe this case is in condition for allowance and respectfully request allowance of the pending claims. If the Examiner believes any issue requires further discussion, the Examiner is respectfully asked to telephone the undersigned attorney so that the matter may be promptly resolved. The Examiner's prompt attention to this matter is appreciated.

Applicants do not believe that any fee is due in connection with this submission. However, if any fees are necessary to complete this communication, the Commissioner may consider this to be a request for such and charge any necessary fees to Deposit Account No. 23-3000.

Respectfully submitted,

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